

Mozingo gets its conference center

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Maryville voters passed two tax initiatives Tuesday to fund operations and improvements at Mozingo Lake Recreation Park, but it wasn't easy.

While the existing tax initiative to continue funding daily operations at the park passed overwhelmingly with 61.6 percent of the vote, 727-453; the new 1/8 of 1 cent sales tax to build a conference center at the lake barely passed, mustering a 5-vote margin 588-583.

The first ballot question for the existing sales tax renewal that was first approved in 1997 provides revenue for one-half of Mozingo Park's \$1.9 million annual operating budget at approximately \$950,000 per year.

The revenue from that initiative will be used for continued operation, maintenance, and expansion of amenities. The 20-year extension of that existing sales tax coincides with the adopted 20-year plan with a vision to continue developing the park.

The second question, which faced strong opposition among some in the community, increases the local sales tax by 1/8 of 1 cent, or a penny for every \$8 spent, to construct an estimated \$4 million conference center at Mozingo.

The tax passed, but just barely. And several voters expressed their discontent with it even being on the ballot.

"I think it's really ballsy of Mozingo to ask its community to pay even more in taxes for something like [the conference center]," Voter Amber Galbraith said.

Galbraith and several other voters said they did not see a need for the conference center.

Maryville City Manager Greg

McDaniel said that their data contradicted that belief, with 80 percent of Maryville businesses saying they would use the conference center if it was built.

A slim majority of Maryville voters agreed.

"I'm definitely for [the tax initiatives]," voter Winnie Burns said. "I go out to Mozingo all the time. I like it, I like all of it and I really hope it passes."

Other parts of Nodaway County also voted Tuesday, but it was the ballot initiative in Conception Junction, at the Jefferson C-123 School District, that garnered the most notice.

The school district has put its property tax initiative on the ballot seven times in the last eight years to build a new gymnasium at the school, and while it has come close, it has failed six previous times to obtain the 4/7 supermajority required to pass.

The tax will cost taxpayers 75 cents for every \$100 of assessed property, and would fund a \$1.5 million general bond obligation to build the new gym that would seat up to 800 people.

This time, the initiative passed.

District voters gave their nod to construction with a vote of 216-153. Because of the 4/7 supermajority requirement, the initiative needed 211 votes to pass, so it squeaked by just like the Mozingo initiative — by 5 votes.

Caden Hardan, a junior at Jefferson C-123, said before the results were known that the new gymnasium would benefit current and future students.

"The students are very excited," Hardan said. "There's many things they can use the gym for. Now with the space we have available for recess, sports, and class experiments there isn't much room."

SEE **ELECTION** | A5



City Manager Greg McDaniel details the importance of Mozingo Lake at a city forum March 29.



20 year Tax initiative to increase sales tax by 1/8th of one cent to build a conference center at Mozingo Lake

PASSED
50.2%
588-583



Tax initiative to continue funding basic operations at Mozingo Lake for the next 20 years

PASSED
61.6%
727-453



Property tax initiative to build a new gymnasium for the Jefferson C-123 School District

PASSED
58.5%
216-153

Hunters take caution during mushroom hunting season

SHAYLEE MILLER
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

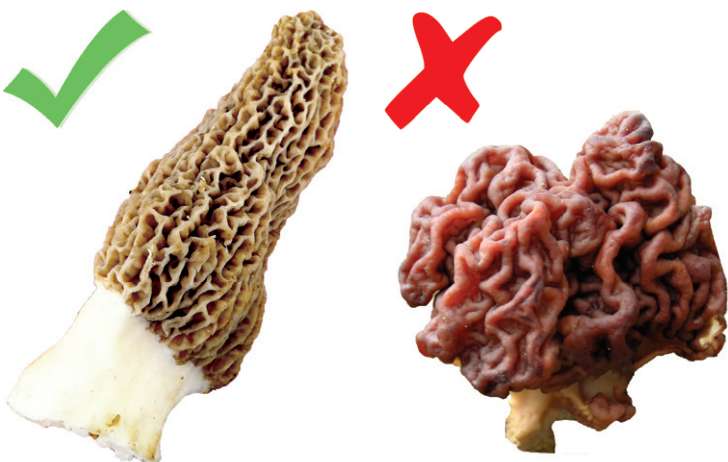
With spring and the coming of warm weather also comes the popular activity of mushroom hunting.

Rodger Lewellen is a senior at Northwest majoring in agricultural business and a knowledgeable morel mushroom hunter. He explains some good areas to look for this edible fungus.

"Grassy woodsy areas, including fencerows, are prime locations," Lewellen said. "Once you find one, there are more than likely going to be a number around it."

Lonnie Messbarger, a forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation, discusses some of his mushroom hunting tricks.

"A lot of people go off certain kind of trees. I'm a firm believer in dead or dying elm trees," said Messbarger.



(LEFT) A true morel is more uniformly shaped than the false morel (RIGHT). True morels are also directly connected to the stem, whereas false are detached.

He says ash or cottonwood trees are also good trees to signal the presence of mushrooms, but any tree that is dead or dying is a good indicator.

As far as where mushrooms are found throughout the season itself, Messbarger says small mushrooms are typically found in river bottoms or along creek beds where the vegetation is low during the earlier part of the season. The bigger, more developed mushrooms are found later in the season, usually around middle to late April in hillier regions.

For someone who has never gone mushroom hunting before but would like to give it a try, Lewellen says this is a relatively low maintenance activity.

"About the only thing you need is a good pair of boots and jeans and a basket to collect them in," Lewellen said.

As far as a basket to collect the mushrooms goes, Lewellen also says a plastic shopping sack works as well as anything.

SEE **MUSHROOMS** | A5

Chalk hawks balk at Trump on walks

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Students at several college campuses are debating the limits of free speech after finding chalk messages voicing support for Donald Trump scrawled on campus property.

Unknown Northwest students joined this nationwide trend, chalking "Trump 2k16" and messages similar around the J.W. Jones Student Union, Valk and Roberta Hall. Office of Student Involvement Specialist Dee Dino sent an email to students across campus stating the chalkings violated the student handbook.

"If you have any information about the political sidewalk chalking found all over campus this morning, please report it to the Office of Student Involvement or University Police. Sidewalk chalking is reserved for recognized student organizations and only with prior approval from the Office of Student Involvement. Unauthorized chalking is considered defacing state property. In this instance, groups with approval had their postings defaced by others who did not. Anyone with information regarding this unauthorized activity is asked to report it to the Office of Student Involvement or UPD," Dino said in the email.

According to Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker, the investigation into these chalkings is not at the top of the University's list of priorities. However, those responsible for the chalking, if charged with defacing state property, could face a Class B misdemeanor, up to six months in prison

and up to \$500 in fines.

Baker said the reasoning behind the University's policy is to manage competition between student organizations and to give a name to those writing the messages.

"People want to take over an entire area or an entire campus. So, sure we have to make sure the content is appropriate and not vulgar, but a lot of it has to do with managing our space," Baker said.

Baker went on to say content is typically not a factor in whether or not a student organization will receive approval. The approval of a chalking hinges on the scheduling of the space requested and if those applying are affiliated with a Student Senate recognized organization.

However, content that materially and substantially disrupts the functioning of the institution, or is unlawful, or involves speech that rises to the level of illegal harassment as defined by the University's policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment is not allowed. No libelous or discriminatory references shall be made in the chalking.

With the wording of the policy in place, individual students would not be allowed to chalk on a University sidewalk without support from a student organization. Baker said he was unsure of the reasoning for this measure of the policy.

Campuses across the country are having more trouble with the chalkings than Northwest. According to NY Daily Times, at Emory University in Atlanta, officials scrambled to respond to a student demonstration after roughly 100 messages.

SEE **TRUMP** | A5

Missouri lethal injection under scrutiny

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS
Chief Reporter | @AnthonyProcRoss

The Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) has been ordered to release two pharmacy names from where it purchases the lethal drugs used in execution.

Final judgments laid down by the circuit court of Cole County criticize Missouri prisons for not rightfully informing the public about their way of conducting the death penalty. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, Missouri has executed 18 men since 2013 using the drug pentobarbital through an unknown source.

These sources are thought to be by the press as compounding pharmacies where organization make drugs specifically to tailor the needs of a client. Those pharma-

cies are not held to the same processes and testing standards of other larger pharmaceutical companies.

A lawsuit filed in 2014 by media organizations including The Associated Press, Kansas City Star and St. Louis Post-Dispatch argued that public disclosure of purchasing records reduce risks over the way "improper, ineffective or defectively prepared drugs are used."

Judge Jon Beetem ruled in favor of the organizations, notably marking where the DOC had "knowingly violated the Sunshine law by refusing to disclose records that would reveal the suppliers of lethal injection drugs, because its refusal was based on an interpretation of Missouri statutes that was clearly contrary to law."

SEE **INJECTIONS** | A5

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Northwest student Mariah Jones looks through the variety of hand-made bowls crafted by students. All the money fundraised that evening went straight to the food bank here in Maryville. SARAH BANDY | NW MISSOURIAN

Empty Bowls raises hunger awareness

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS
Chief Reporter | @AnthonyProcRoss

Northwest Missouri State University held the eighth annual Empty Bowls fundraiser April 1 where ce-

ramic students and art faculty gave back to their local community by turning art into charity. Empty Bowls encompasses a national mission of events designed to raise hunger awareness.

This year’s event took place at the Station conference center from 5-8 p.m. Ceramic bowls and cups were displayed for customers to choose from to use for supper. Local businesses Hy-vee, A&G and Happy Garden contributed to the menu items featured in this year’s fundraiser. Westlake Ace Hardware and Northwest Campus Dining donated rental serving dishes.

Prices ranged from \$15 for a meal including a handcrafted ceramic bowl to \$25, which added a handcrafted ceramic cup. Every cent made was donated to the Nodaway Ministry Center’s food pantry.

A group of 10 began preparations in January and February gathering together to throw and trim their clay creations. Bisque firing and glazing took place later in the semester as students found time.

Adjunct Instructor Veronica Watkins provided her take on the event and the students who helped shape the event.

This is a good opportunity for them to sort of get some more experience as makers and to prove their quality but also then do a project

that affects the community,” Watkins said. “It’s become sort of a tradition to support the handmade art object but also to do something that benefits people in need in our community.”

Watkins wanted people to know that they really appreciate the community’s support and thanked the restaurants that helped make this event possible.

Empty Bowls has brought the community together for the past eight years to promote awareness of hunger in the Maryville community. According to a statewide poverty report from Missourians to End Poverty, Missouri has the seventh highest food insecurity rate in the U.S. and shows Nodaway county reaching 20.2 percent in established poverty rate.

The Nodaway Ministry Center and events such as the Empty Bowls fundraiser are doing their best to keep these statistics at bay. The Ministry Center’s mission is to provide food and clothing to those in need in Nodaway County.

Campus involvement in the Maryville community is charitable and appreciated in a locality that

houses its student’s university. The more students and faculty can support the community, the more Northwest Missouri State University will continue to grow in part.

“All the money goes to the food bank here in Maryville and the Rescue Santa. This year I think we made about \$1800 dollars. After that we had to reimburse from buying the food. The majority of the food was donated by A & G, Happy Garden, and Hy-vee. Ace Hardware even donated some equipment. We are planning on doing it next year, but maybe in a exchange tent. Maybe go to community places like the Lion Club and the church and ask them would they be interested in hosting it. I want to do something more of community based, since right now it is more university based. It would be great to spread it out. Other than that we will continue to do it for a good cause,” Coordinator of the Empty Bowl fundraiser, Kwok-Pong (Bobby) Tso said.

On April 21 and 22 there will be an art show in the Student Union. It can be found on the second floor in the leading ballroom.



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1 p.m.	Baseball vs. Missouri Southern
2 p.m.	Men’s Tennis vs. Midwestern
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SUNDAY, APR. 3	
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Proposed religious freedoms bill could damage economy

DARCIE BRADFORD
Managing Editor | @darcie_jeanne_7

Missouri officials and students alike are voicing their concerns over what effects a religious freedoms bill could have on statewide and local economies.

Senate Joint Resolution 39 would prohibit the state from imposing any form of penalty on any religious organization or individual who refuses to provide goods or services to a same sex marriage or wedding ceremony if they have a sincere religious conflict.

The bill states, “The state shall not impose a penalty on an individual who declines either to be a participant in a marriage or wedding ceremony or to provide goods or services of expressional or artistic creation for such a marriage or ceremony or an ensuing celebration thereof, because of a sincere religious belief concerning marriage between two persons of the same sex.”

Freshman Scout Montgomery said he believes the bill is just allowing for discrimination.

“I think this will be a huge blow to the economy. Since gay marriage was made legal, I’m sure many couples are rushing to get married. If people say no, then there will be no money coming in. It’s just used to pick out people to deny service to, like racism back then,” Montgomery said.

Karen Buschmann, Vice President of Communications at the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said she believes the bill is dangerous.

“There is a revision in it that would allow an employee to refuse to do his or her job and we don’t think that is good policy,” Buschman said. “We are seeing a lot of economic backlash from these kinds of bills in

other states and we can’t ignore that in Missouri. In general, I think it is dangerous.”

While statewide this bill is causing concern and controversy, some local businesses don’t feel the bill will affect them.

Keitha Clapp from Maryville Florist said she would never turn anyone away from her business.

“I wouldn’t turn people away, I am in business to be in business,” Clapp said. “I accept money from everybody. People are people and that is really none of my business.”

If passed by the Legislature, the bill would bypass Gov. Jay Nixon and be placed before voters, who could pass it with a simple majority vote.

Buschman said she believes this bill has a good chance of being on the ballot in November for the people to vote on due to its many supporters.

Planting season takes off in Nodaway County

ANGELA LUNA

Chief Reporter | @Lunie95

As planting season nears, farmers across Nodaway County are scrambling to get their land ready for crops.

For farmers, a lot is taken into consideration when it comes to planting. Bruce Burdick of Hundley-Whaley Research Center in Albany said temperature sets the time for planting.

"You really want to have a soil that is not extremely wet or dry. Minimum temps are measured at a two inch depth and the minimum corn temperature would be 50 degrees," Burdick said. "Most are governed by conditions of planting. If it's warm, it will go into the first of May."

Due to weather conditions, farmers will put off planting and instead will get the soil ready. Northwestern Missouri vegetable crops are typically corn or soybeans.

"Right now in Nodaway County, the ideal vegetable is corn which is a field corn versus a sweet corn. It's a little early for other vegetables such as soybeans. There is not a great deal of vege-

table production in Northwestern Missouri," Burdick said.

Northwest agriculture major Kylynn Sisk helps his grandfather at their family farm, Tabacchi Farms in Oregon, Missouri, where they plant corn and soybeans. This year, they decided to wait a little bit to plant.

"We haven't started yet, but we have our corn fields ready. Before we cultivate, we put fertilizer for the corn that will sit in the ground until we plant and the corn uses it up. Within the next week, we will be planting our corn," Sisk said.

Sisk also talked about how insurance can help out local farmers when the weather damages the crops.

"Most farmers have to cultivate the fields to get the dirt ready. The insurance cutoff date is April 7 and let's say the cold affects the crops and the seed doesn't emerge. If they plant on the seventh or later, their insurance will cover them," Sisk said.

With the temperatures starting to warm up across the state, many farmers will start to lay their seed down for field corn. Farmers will then be ready to harvest in the fall.



BECCA BORREN | NW MISSOURIAN

Farmers all around Nodaway County start preparing their fields for planting season.

Northwest hosts Agriculture Career Development Events

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS

Chief Reporter | @AnthonyProcRoss

Northwest's Department of Agriculture Science hosted area youth for Northwest District Agriculture Career Development Events (CDE) April 5 and 6.

More than 1,200 students and 45 schools came to compete in a variety of 15 events covering Agronomy, Entomology, Dairy Foods, Horse Judging, Poultry, Livestock, Nursery/Landscaping, Farm management, Floriculture, Soils, Agriculture Mechanics, Agriculture Sales, Forestry and Dairy Foods.

There are six Agricultural Districts in the State of Missouri. Northwest Missouri State University lies in the Northwest District. Each event has a select number of positions open for state qualification granting only the top a chance to compete with Missouri's best.

Keith Dietzchold, Northwest District Supervisor for Agriculture Education for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education sees that these students are there to put their best foot forward. He started coming as a student in 1974 and is quite experienced with

the events and experiences had at these competitions.

"There are 15 events. They are all important to somebody... and they are important aspects of what we do in agriculture," said Dietzchold. "Hopefully they are [students] using this as a stepping stone for what they want to do in the future."

Each event is set up differently, minding respective content areas. For example, the Nursery/Landscaping event tested students knowledge over landscape design, plant identification, live cuttings and attendance of a Plant Disorder Diagnoses Practicum.

The Livestock event incorporated the placement of the seven judging classes of livestock including three classes of cattle, a sheep class, a goat class, and two swine classes. Students were then asked to deliver reasons to an official as to why they made their choices.

CDE Coordinator and Northwest Instructor of Agriculture Education Jackie Lacy dedicated herself to this event making sure that things ran as smoothly as possible throughout the two days.

"It's not a one person show by

any means. The whole school of Agricultural Science has to work together to make it a success," said Lacy. "We have students from all across our agriculture disciplines that are helping today."

The events were spread throughout campus utilizing the space and resources Northwest Missouri State has to offer. Nursery/Landscaping and Farm Management competitions were held in Valk. Agronomy and Dairy Foods event participants were stationed in the Student Union.

"Students are loaded up at Thompson Ringgold and are driven to a site. There are actually soil pits dug in which students have to get in, judge, identify soil textures, colors, models and the hole profile characteristics," said Lacy

The top ranking teams include Braymer in Agronomy, Mid Buchanan in Dairy Foods, Hamilton in Entomology, Mid Buchanan in Farm Management, Savannah in Floriculture, Princeton in Horse Judging, Princeton in Livestock, DeKalb in Nursery/Landscaping, Cameron in Poultry, and Mid Buchanan in Soils.

"We are pleased that Northwest



MEGAN WALLACE | NW MISSOURIAN

More than 1,200 students came to Northwest for the Career Development Events.

Missouri State University want's to host this event for Northwest Missouri," said Dietzchold. "It's a good tool not only for our students to see

the campus but also for them to be in this environment and find out that there is some life that can happen after high school."

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COLIN VAUGHAN

OUR VIEW:

Northwest chalking made much bigger deal than necessary

A new social media trend hit Northwest April 4, leading police to investigate a drawing in sidewalk chalk. The trend called “The Chalkening” has come to multiple college campuses throughout the country in the last couple months. Students anonymously write things such as “Trump 2016” in chalk. Some of the first incidents were reported at Emory University in Atlanta and the University of Michigan. These included more than just the pro-Trump messages, but more offensive messages such as “Build the Wall” and “Stop Islam.” However, at Northwest, we only saw two different instances of this happening: a “Trump 2K16” and “#Trump 2016.” Police were quick to respond, sending out a message stating they were investigating the chalkings. This brings up a couple questions from us. First, why is this being investigated? No harm was done here, and someone voiced his or her opinion, so why do we need to investigate it if it was done in chalk,

which washes off, and if it said nothing offensive or obscene? In the student handbook, there is a 10-step application for sidewalk chalking on campus listing the rules and requirements. These rules say in order to fill out an application for sidewalk chalking, you must be in an organization registered and recognized by the Student Senate and registered online at Bearcat Link. These organizations must fill out an application to be approved before they can chalk and must be given the chalk by the Office of Student Involvement. The only thing the handbook says about chalkings that could make it illegal is No. 6 and 7 in the student handbook under the section of “Sidewalk Chalking Application Procedure,” which states, “No content shall be made in chalking that materially and substantially disrupts the functioning of the institution, or is unlawful, or involves speech that rises to the level of illegal harassment as defined by the University’s

policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment” and “No libelous or discriminatory references shall be made in the chalking.” So once again, why is this being investigated? This did not say anything libelous or discriminatory, it was not unlawful, disruptive harassment. So why do we care? The argument here is that the chalker went around the application and wrote without the consent of the University. However, the University sidewalks are owned by the state, and any citizen can step foot on the sidewalks. So the sidewalks can be written on by anyone because it is public, state property. Also, the fact that there is an application to fill out before you can write on the sidewalk in chalk feels like an infraction of our First Amendment rights. We should not be told that we can not write on the sidewalks in washable chalk because we are not part of an organization on campus. Just because we are not promoting

the latest SAC or Greek event does not mean we should not be able to express ourselves. The second question we have here is, what will happen at the end of the investigation? Will we find the suspect and arrest him or her for having poor taste in politicians? Or will we charge the person \$10 because, according to the application to chalk, if you do not properly clean your chalkings after the end date established, you will be fined \$10? We understand the worry of our students if we saw something like “Stop Islam” in big letters in front of the library. But this was harmless, there was no threat in this simple chalking. This could also just be a bunch of students who saw this was becoming a big thing around college campuses and wanted Northwest to participate. That is no reason to go out and investigate the situation. After looking at the application to chalk, we see that you can not apply to chalk unless you are a part of an organization. The fact that no sin-

gle person can partake in chalking and has to be a member of an organization seems ridiculous. Playing in chalk on the sidewalk is a thing many people enjoy doing, and the stress that some see in college would make them want to be outside enjoying an activity in chalk. But since you are not in an organization, you can not do that. This has been a nonsense waste of time and the fact that anyone wanted to investigate this chalking is sad. We as students have more to worry about than “The Chalkening” hitting Northwest, like the fact that there are Trump supporters around us. The University should explain why it believes this was a big deal. We want to know why it believes this warranted an investigation. We also would like to know what exactly will happen to the chalker, and we need to know why our First Amendment rights are not paramount in the application process to chalk.

Back door to Apple products is a dangerous idea



COURTNEY POWELL
Contributing Columnist

The creation of a back door for the iPhone software will not only allow the government to access every iPhone created, it will also give the government the power to violate the privacy of every American citizen. Now don’t get me wrong, I want the government to find a way to stop terrorists, I just don’t believe the privacy of every American should be risked for exposure in the process. Initially the FBI asked Apple to break into an iPhone 5C belonging to one of the dead terrorists linked to the San Bernardino massacre.

The task seemed simple, but Apple outright refused. The reason? Encryption isn’t magic, nor is it easy. If Apple created a back door for one iPhone, it would make all phones under Apple vulnerable. If iPhones are vulnerable, consumers are vulnerable. The government will not only have the ability to fight terrorism and protect the American people, but it will also be able to police the American people over what they do in private. As a loyal Apple customer, I never thought for a second to cross over to the dark side that is Android for any reason. But when I heard the government might be able to have access to my phone, I cannot lie and say it did not freak me out a little. I began to imagine America be-

coming a totalitarian society with secret microphones and cameras tracking our daily activities. The Thought Police will capture all those who oppose the enigmatic leader and torture them with their deepest fears. OK, maybe a little bit overdramatic and maybe our country won’t exactly be a replica of the book “1984” or be ruled by “Big Brother,” but I hope you see my point. If the government thinks that you, your family or even your friends are involved in something illegal, what do you think will stop them from invading your privacy to find out? Apple also argued that creating a back door for the federal government will not stop it from repeatedly asking Apple for more access. Right now, the government is focusing on terrorism.

Next, the government will emphasize drug trafficking and pornography. There will never be an end to the government’s desire to stop any and all illegal activity, even if it means searching through 94 million consumer-owned phones to do it. As technology has evolved, privacy means more to mobile users than ever before. After last year’s fiasco of hackers breaking into iCloud and revealing embarrassing pictures of certain celebrities, Apple is on thin ice when it comes to the privacy of its customers. If a back door is created for the government, experienced hackers will waste no time trying to uncover the secret codes that could gain them access to any iPhone ever created. Indecent photos won’t be the

only thing at risk of being exposed. Consumers now have the option to save credit card information, passwords and personal contact data that could possibly increase risk of identity theft. The creation of the back door has a strong possibility of making iPhone users susceptible to theft more than ever before. I take pride in knowing Apple’s No. 1 priority is consumers. The company knows every customer could be monitored by our government, or take his or her business elsewhere. Apple would rather battle the government until the end of days than hand over the key that would diminish its audience and unlock the privacy of a great deal of the American population.

People with autism deserve to be treated with respect



ALY BAKER
Contributing Columnist

April is Autism Awareness Month, and to spread awareness, many major landmarks were lit up with blue lights. These landmarks included the Great Buddha in Japan, Christ the Redeemer in Brazil, the Panama Canal and the Israeli Parliament Building. This is a huge step in the right direction for autism awareness and acceptance. I believe another step towards autism acceptance is to understand autism and the autism spectrum.

Autism is a disorder in brain development and can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues. Individuals who have autism are just that: individual. Even though one in 68 children has autism, no two cases are exactly the same. Only about 40 percent of children with autism have intellectual disability. Many children with autism are very smart but language barriers and repetitive behaviors don’t allow them to show it. Autism can lead to difficulty regulating emotions and sensory sensitivities, causing stress, anxiety and even sometimes physical pain. Because of these symptoms, raising a child with autism can be

very difficult, both physically and emotionally. Parents face daily difficulties that are unseen to the public eye. When you see a child with autism throwing a tantrum, they often cannot help it. It’s not okay for the child or the parents to be judged based off something no one can control. Vaccine-related autism has always been a topic to get me fired up. Vaccines do not cause autism. Lack of vaccines can cause measles, mumps, and rubella. Measles, mumps and rubella can cause brain swelling, deafness, hospitalization and even death. To those who won’t vaccinate in fear of autism, would you rather your child suffer brain swelling or die than to live with a disorder? If you truly think

autism is the worst thing that can happen to a child, then you need to rethink some things. Although people with autism do things differently, they are not different from us. Children with autism can love you just like any other child can. They throw fits and tantrums just like any other child does. Adults with autism hold jobs just like any other adult does. They can get married and have babies just like any other adult can. When speaking about a person with autism, it’s important to use person-first language. A person is a person, not their condition. As you may have noticed, I haven’t used the word “autistic” once during this article. A person is not autistic, they have autism.

Dr. Joaquin Fuentes wrote an article from a person with autism’s point of view and he said it best. “I am not ‘autistic.’ I am first, foremost, and always a person, a student, a child, and I have autism. Do not confuse me with my condition. And, please, do not use the term in a negative or inconsiderate way. I deserve to be respected,” Fuentes said. A negative word I often hear is “the R word.” This word is extremely insensitive in any way, shape or form and should never be used in any case, joking or not. People are not a joke. Autism, like any disorder, doesn’t keep a person from being human. Humans want love and respect. Everyone deserves these things because we’re all the same.

STAFF

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TRUMP
CONTINUED FROM A1

The students felt that there was an anti-diversity message on campus that supported Trump. Emory senior Cassidy Campbell said in an interview that the pro-Trump messages contained

phrases like “Build a Wall” and “Accept the Inevitable.” The messages themselves were written near multicultural spaces. “We’re not here to infringe on people’s First Amendment rights. Think about how your language can be oppressive toward other people,” Campbell said. Students on campus are torn

about whether or not to support the students voicing their opinion. Junior Jake Hunter was stuck between supporting free speech and supporting a candidate he is against. “I think people should be able to express an opinion, regardless if it’s favorable or not,” Hunter said. “Suppressing someone’s freedom

of speech just because some don’t like it is a slap in the face to democracy. I think people’s ideas should be challenged, and the one true way to understanding each other is having different opinions and ideas.” Other students, like Sophomore Rebecca Moyer, think the University is well within their right to go af-

ter the students. “On some levels it’s vandalism,” Moyer said. “I am all for freedom of speech and it’s cool that people are getting into politics, but the University has its rules for a reasons.” The University is continuing to accept tips on who wrote the messages across campus.

ELECTION
CONTINUED FROM A1

“A new gym would allow them to have more room for all the visitors since we don’t have a lot of seating in the gym right now. This is some-

thing the students would have been wanting for a long time so I think it would be a great addition to our school.” In the last municipal election, the proposal won the majority vote but lost the super majority by four votes.

Local taxpayers have mixed reviews about the new gymnasium. Robert Simmerman said that enrollment numbers are down, meaning a new gym isn’t necessary. “Our enrollment has done nothing but go down over the years,”

Simmerman said. “I think we need to consolidate with other schools.” Other local voters discussed why they supported the new gym. Steve Chor says a new gym will be needed over time. “The election has been close be-

fore as I imagine it will be today,” Chor said. “Sometime over the next several years, a new gym will definitely be needed. This time interest rates will be lower in payments versus years later when the interest rates go up.”

MUSHROOMS
CONTINUED FROM A1

Experienced mushroom hunters would also recommend either putting small holes with a pencil in the bottom of your plastic sacks or using a sack that has pores. Mushrooms reproduce via

spores and allowing these spores to fall on the ground while you’re walking through the woods gives a better chance of the mushrooms to repopulate the area. If you’re lucky enough to find a honey-hole for mushrooms, attempting to help spread the spores of what you collect could allow you to find more within the next week or so de-

pending on the weather. In terms of weather, Lewellen says the ground temperature needs to be at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit to find morel mushrooms. “After a nice spring rain is a good time to go,” said Lewellen. Messbarger also warns mushroom hunters of a dangerous look alike. Messbarger says the false-mo-

rel (Gyromitra esculenta) is probably the closest look alike. “The closest way to tell is the morel mushroom, or the good mushroom, is hollow from the ground up to the top. So when you pick it, you’re going to actually pinch it. If the top or the stump is solid then it’s not a morel that you’d want to eat,” said Messbarger.



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INJECTIONS
CONTINUED FROM A1

Beestem ruled that correspondent drug-providing pharmacies were not protected in the same way as execution team members’ identities. The Guardian was represented in the legal action by the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic at Yale Law School, along with Bernard Rhodes of Lathrop & Gage LLP in Kansas City, Missouri. The Guardian has their repre-

sentative’s take on the case. “Without this information, the public is unable to exercise meaningful oversight of the executions carried out in its name,” Rhodes said. “One of the primary purposes of a free and independent press is to perform a watchdog function over government activities, and this lawsuit is a perfect example of that.” Most active death penalty states attempt to circumvent a European-led boycott that blocks trade of lethal injection drugs to U.S. prison markets in part of established ethics.

Without providing the public with information on both the source and methods utilized in execution risks of “failed” executions remain. The Los Angeles Times reported on an unsuccessful Arizona execution where regularly administered doses of a lethal substance with a private origin did not kill the convict until 15 doses had been administered. Arizona officials neglected to disclose where the state obtained the drugs due to concern over reputation of the supplying company. Because DOC purposely violat-

ed the Sunshine law freedom of information law, Plaintiffs are entitled to all costs and reasonable attorney’s fees, which they have established to be \$73,335.41. The nature of public information and how it is legally disbursed affects opinions on the moral aspects associated with the 32 states that still implement the death penalty. Public awareness promotes an ease of mind in our state and own localities. “I think it’s ethical to be able to know what’s being used to kill peo-

ple on death row. We are sentencing these people to this fate, and not knowing what we use to bring them to their end is pretty cruel,” junior Leigha Chenoweth said. Some people do agree that the public show know what drugs are being used to execute the death row prisoners. “I think people should know what drugs are being pumped into the death inmates. Its wrong to not know. What if people accidentally find it and use it?” senior Jason Vanhorn said.

Blotters for the week of April 7

Maryville Department
of Public Safety

Mar. 26
A summons has been issued for **Hunter B. Bullock, 22**, for driving while intoxicated, failure to

maintain right half of roadway, and failure to maintain financial responsibility at 900 block South Main Street.

Mar. 27
A summons has been issued to **Keyawna L.B. Conley, 23**, for driving while intoxicated and im-

proper turn at 300 block North Fillmore.

Mar. 28
A summons has been issued to **Douglas K. II Merry, 21**, for possession of drug paraphernalia at 1200 block West 16th Street.

Mar. 31
There is an ongoing investigation for property damage 300 block East Summit Drive.

Apr. 02
A summons has been issued to **Samuel D. Morgan, 22**, for driv-

ing while intoxicated and equipment violation at 600 block North Walnut.

Apr. 03
A summons has been issued to **Hannah L. Lowrance, 19**, for minor in possession at 200 block East Edwards.

Northwest Missouri
State University
Police Department

Mar. 30
A summons has been issued for four liquor law violations that have been reported at Lot 20.

Mar. 31
There is an open investigation for stealing at Lot 10.

Apr. 03
There is an open investigation for stealing at Franken Hall.

There is an open investigation for property damage at Lot 20.

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COLIN VAUGHAN | NW MISSOURIAN

COLIN VAUGHAN | NW MISSOURIAN

YOUR NAME HERE

By Peter A Collins

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

1. Engine additive
4. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
7. Tooth caregiver
10. Hawaiian dish
11. Retirement account
12. Basketball player Ming
13. Say suddenly
15. Carbon isotope ration (abbr.)
16. Frasier Crane's brother
19. Framework over oil well
21. Edible mollusk
23. Handy
24. Japanese banjo
25. Microwave
26. Double-reed instrument
27. Covered
30. Leaseholders
34. Master of business
35. Herb
36. Blood clot
41. Route
45. Reach a higher position
46. American state
47. Erases
50. Expunge
53. Waits around idly
54. Came into
56. Nikolai __, Bolshevik theorist
57. 007's creator
59. Dravidian language
60. Central nervous system
61. Male child
62. Born of
63. A period of history
64. A major division of geological time
65. Doctor of Education

1. Prods
2. Tempest
3. Miserable
4. Excited
5. Temindung Airport
6. Provides shade from the sun
7. Generators
8. Newspapers
9. Unaccompanied flights

13. Bahrain dinar
14. Romanian currency
17. Between northeast and east
18. London Southend Airport
20. Cucumber
22. Lovable pig
27. Woman (French)
28. Defensive nuclear weapon
29. Clutch
31. Seventh letter of the Greek alphabet
32. Records electrical activity
33. Car mechanics group
37. Speaking
38. A formal permission
39. Exploiter
40. Affixed
41. External genitals
42. Deity
43. Eat these with soup

- 44. Swerved
- 47. Connects two pipes
- 48. Challenger
- 49. Ranch (Spanish)
- 51. Righted
- 52. Fatty-fleshed fish
- 55. Prosecutes alleged criminals
- 58. Swiss river

SOLUTIONS

A	V	E	S			S	H	A	F	T	S	
R	I	M	U		L	M	P	H	A	T	I	C
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Jozie Reeter

Freshman finds her new home in her campus ministry

REBECCA BOREN
A&E Reporter | @BeccaLynnBoren

Some college students cannot wait to leave home and get away from their families. Others struggle to leave those who raised them and loved them from the start. Freshman Jozie Reeter has a large family with four siblings to whom she is extremely close.

“My mother is a stay at home mom, which is a pretty big job since I have such a big family,” Reeter said. “My dad is a pastor at Life-point Church. My mom also does a lot of stuff to help him out, so things like counseling.”

Reeter grew up in the small town of Bogard, which has a population of only 162 people. When she entered the sixth grade, she moved to Chillicothe. Although Chillicothe is still a fairly small city, Reeter’s class size grew from 11 people to 139.

Reeter transitioned from her small graduating class to one of Northwest Missouri State’s largest classes in history.

She is double majoring in elementary education and special needs education.

The main activity Reeter participates in is the campus ministry, the Navigators. She said it is time consuming, but definitely worth it.

“It is really awesome because it was something I was most looking forward to coming to school, getting involved with a campus ministry,” Reeter said.

It was with the Navigators that Reeter met one of her best friends, freshman Abbey Huston.

“Jozie has had a huge positive influence on my college experience,” Huston said. “She is a genuinely kind person and has become my best friend. I don’t know if I could survive college without her. She is someone I can laugh, cry or go on super late Walmart runs with.”

Reeter has been on quite a journey with the Navigators and impacted other people that have helped change her life as well.

“I signed up to do Joshua Team, which is an in depth Bible study we did for nine weeks,” Reeter said. “In those nine weeks we memorized scripture, dug deeper in the Bible and read a book. Through that we were challenged to do what is called an IBD.”

IBD stands for an investigative Bible discovery. Reeter, along with many others participating on Joshua Team, had to find three to five other people to read scripture and discuss faith with.

“I asked one of my really good friends if she wanted to meet and she was totally for it, so we started meeting every Thursday,” Reeter said. “We really started to break down what we thought the scripture was saying to us.”

But the challenge does not end there. Members of Joshua Team are encouraged to always take it a step further. They have student leaders to help them do this.

“My Bible study leader Cassidy challenged me to talk to my friend about being adopted in Christ,” Reeter said. “When we talked about it, there were lots of tears and deep thoughts and it was really awesome. In the end, she accepted Jesus. That is definitely the highlight of my year.”

Junior Cassidy Phillips is Reeter’s Bible study leader. She said Reeter has a caring personality and it is hard not to be her friend.

“I have known Jozie for less than a year and she has quickly become one of my best friends,” Phillips said. “Jozie loves people so much and is a light wherever she goes. It’s been such a blessing to get to know her.”

But no one’s road is easy. Reeter’s college experience has been full of existential questions.

“I know that I will never know exactly what I am supposed to do and that I just have to trust in God



BECCA BOREN | NW MISSOURIAN

Freshmen Abbey Huston (left) and Jozie Reeter are active participants in the campus ministry, the Navigators. They meet every Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Station.

“It is Jeremiah 29:11. ‘For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future.’

110 percent of the time,” Reeter said. “A Bible verse actually brings me a lot of comfort. It is Jeremiah 29:11. ‘For I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Reeter acknowledges she wor-

ries too often, but she has been working on trusting in the plan she believes God has for her and giving her worries to Him.

Reeter experiences the most joy when she is in fellowship with her Bible study hearing about the ways their lives are changing and

the way they are changing other people’s lives.

“They are so encouraging to one another and so encouraging to me,” Reeter said. “We just send each other little texts randomly and let each other know we love everyone.”

Reeter has big plans for her life.

“In five years, hopefully I am graduated from college and moving on,” Reeter said. “I would love to be a high school special education teacher because I want to be able to teach people the life skills they need to be successful.”

Like many of us, Reeter hopes to be married and is willing to live anywhere, though she does admit that she will probably stay in a smaller town.

She has some final advice for people who are beginning to transition from home to college or for those who are still missing home.

“My hardest transition coming to college was leaving my family,” Reeter said. “My advice to you would just be to enjoy the time that you are in right now. Enjoy where you are at in your life and take every moment as it comes.”

CONTACT US

If you would like to nominate someone to be the next Human of Northwest, send an email to r.boren.missourian@gmail.com and tell us why he or she should be spotlighted.



TAYLOR JOHNSON | NW MISSOURIAN



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN



PATRICK EVENSON | NW MISSOURIAN

(Top left) Phi Delta Theta junior Connor Heitman performs in the Zeus and Hera competition Tuesday, March 29, during Greek Week. (Bottom Left) Alpha Delt Pi freshman Brooke Nelson and sophomore Brianne Hanson participate in the city-wide clean up Thursday, March 31, around Marville city streets. (Right) Alpha Gamma Rho's Truman Sleeper participates in the game of dodgeball as part of Rec Night Wednesday March 30. The overall winner of Greek Week was Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority.

Greek Week kicks off after year break

DAVID MOGLER
A&E Reporter | @DavidMogler

Spring Break’s abrupt end can crush a student’s spirit, but the Greek Life Community knows how to keep hopes high post-vacation.

For one week nearly every year, the Greek community comes together for a series of fun and friendly competitions. The program did not occur due to lack of participation during the 2015 school year.

Greek Week, which ran from Monday, March 28, to Sunday, April 3, allows Greeks to show a spirit of unity as well as brother and sisterhood. Greeks selected “Land of the free, home of the Greeks” as their theme for 2016’s Greek Week.

Senior co-chairman of Greek Week and Alpha Gamma Rho member Clinton Bornemeir sees the tradition as a way to unite Greeks for a good cause.

“Our motto is land of the free, home of the Greeks. We’re honoring the fact that we’re American, and that we unite as a Greek community...We’re able to come together like this...We’re going to raise \$500 and put it towards the Wounded Warriors Project,” Bornemeir said.

“We’re also going to do local philanthropy called Backpack Buddies, where we help the needy children in the community get food after school or for school. We’re coming together to raise money and have fun while doing it to support these programs.”

Greek Week’s Monday Olympiad event involved several fraternities and sororities competing in a chariot race starting by Mabel Cook and ending by Wells Hall. Several checkpoints dotted the side of the blocked off road where pullers had to complete a challenge to move onward.

At the end of the stretch, Alpha Sigma Alpha and Sigma Tau Gamma took first place with Sigma Kappa coming in second. Alpha Sigma’s chariot occupant senior Chloe Fey, while surrounded by cheering Alpha Sigmas and Sig Taus gave the credit of the win to the pulling team.

“It feels good, it feels really good. The people pulling my chariot were really fast. That’s what got us here,” Fey said.

The next day Greeks put on an event called the Zeus Hera pageant. During the pageant, several Greeks showcased their talents or the humorous lack thereof, according to senior Sigma Tau Gamma Andrew Jennings.

“You get people like me that aren’t talented, I just come here for the humor of it, then you get some of the ladies and a couple of guys that are singing and have the real talent. You get a mixture, you get laughs and you get to watch talented people,” Jennings said. “It’s a positive way to spend two hours as opposed to what you could do alternatively, such as making bad decisions in the evenings or playing Dungeons and Dragons too late.”

The patriotic stars-and-stripes shirt clad Sig Tau crew presented manly talents through a show of ribbon dancing. No matter how fierce the competition, the week’s events remain friendly, according to Jennings.

“It’s fun to have a competitive rivalry with everybody where it’s all good-natured fun, but still has a competitive edge. I want to beat Phi Sig, I want to beat Sig Ep, I want to beat everybody, but if we lose, I’m not going to hate them forever. It’s just fun to be competitive,” Jennings said.

Crowds of people lined up for the talent show which helped raise money for the Wounded Warriors Project.

Recreation Night remained a favorite of several Greeks. Fraterni-

ties and sororities competed against one another by playing games such as dodgeball, capture the flag and scooter relay races.

Sophomore and Social Chairman of Phi Sigma Kappa Jack Bartly said he enjoyed doing the relays while sophomore Delta Sigma Phi Vice President Michael Coleman said he enjoys the opportunity to display his athleticism during Recreation Night. Senior Tri Sigma member Nicole Grant says the event presented a friendly atmosphere for Greeks to celebrate their unity.

“Rec night is always my favorite part of Greek Week. I just like this part because it allows us to have fun competition without getting irritated with each other. It brings us together as a unit,” Grant said.

The festivities involved more than fun and friendly activities. Greeks worked with the Sustainability Office to give back to the Maryville community. They started at various checkpoints and worked their way towards the courthouse picking up

trash and recyclables. Senior Sigma Kappa member and Committee Chair for Community Service Abby Haarman enjoys serving the community with her fellow Greeks.

“...Maryville gives so much to us, so being able to give back is really great. Each chapter requires service hours, so a lot of the time, people will go to the Humane Society and do highway clean ups. Even though it’s required for us to do that, it’s an enjoyable time for everyone, so that’s a great way to give back to the community,” Haarman said.

Junior Courtney Leeper said that the Greeks managed to raise \$500 selling t-shirts and intended to raise \$1000. Saturday, the Greek community gathered for a barbecue and the festivities ended on Sunday with an Awards Night.

The busy demands of college often keep the Greeks from fraternizing.

Greek Week remains one of the few events at which fraternities and sororities interact with one another.



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THE STROLLER:
Your woman wants you to be more romantic

Yes, I know. We are all poor college kids just trying to get by and pay our bills on time, we sure do not have the money to spend on a movie and a nice dinner. You might be lucky to get McDonald's and watch Netflix.

But romance has nothing to do with money. Your woman just wants to feel spoiled every once in a while to remind her you are just as in to her as you were when you first started dating.

Everyone remembers the honeymoon stage. Some couples stay in it longer than others, but it is a really important part of the relationship. No one is farting around each other, you are bringing her flowers and she is gushing to her friends about how wonderful and romantic you are.

Coming from a woman in a two year relationship, I miss those days.

Yes, I appreciate how close my boyfriend and I have gotten. I love being able to tell him anything and

not hold my farts back anymore. And my friends hear all of the bad stories along with the good ones now.

But sometimes I miss making out in the car like we used to. Or surprise flowers or a quick visit at work. Or holding hands through the whole movie even when it gets a little sweaty.

Surprise your woman. Take her back to where you had your first date and remind yourself why you fell in love with her in the first place.

You do not have to break your bank to cook her a nice dinner and light some candles. Also, it does not cost a dime to hold in your fart and not ruin the mood.

You will be surprised how far this gets you.

Stay thirsty, Bearcats.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.



DYLAN COLD SMITH | NW MISSOURIAN
Whether it is hand-holding, surprise flowers, or a steamy makeout sesh in the car, a little romance can still go a long way.

Not like the movies

a short story by Jordyn Azcona

I used to think that relationships were like the movies. I used to think that nothing was ever too bad to be fixed.

I used to believe in true love. Again, these movies that I grew up watching led me to believe that this was just how things worked.

In real life, sometimes relationships don't work out, sometimes love doesn't last and sometimes you are permanently scarred by something you can't fix.

Mom and Dad loved each other. They would spend all their free time together, show public displays of affection and laugh all the time. They did everything together: cooked, cleaned and sang.

My parents had the relationship that I always dreamed of as a little

girl. The thought never crossed my mind that they weren't really in love and I never once imagined anything could go wrong.

It was the summer before seventh grade when things changed. I started to notice mom was distant. She didn't talk much and was always gone.

My family spent most weekends at my uncle's house. The parents would drink and play games while us kids would eat and swim. Then, it just came out. Mom was cheating on dad with our uncle.

I no longer spent my weekends at my uncle's house.

Mom decided to leave Dad and pursue a relationship with our uncle who was also married at the time. After an intense battle of trying to win

my mother back, my father accepted defeat and moved to California. He could not cope with the reality we were all having to face, so he left me and my four siblings to handle this situation on our own.

Once Dad left, my uncle basically moved in. He tried filling the "father" role, but failed miserably. Now he was the one spending time with mom, laughing with mom and taking mom out. And where was I?

I was cleaning, cooking, crying. No one was there to be an adult at the time, so I had to step up to the plate. Do you know what it's like to be a mom at age 12?

When Dad came back, he was not the same. He was skinny. He was depressed, crying all the time. As I entered my parent's bedroom one

evening, I discovered my father crying in front of the wall. Looking up, I could see pictures of my mom and dad formed in the shape of a heart. It was another failed attempt at winning my mother's heart back. A few days later, I was walking quietly up the stairs, and overheard a commotion.

After peeking around the corner, I witnessed my mother tugging on my father with all her might. He was trying to run away. He overpowered her and took off running, in the middle of the night, without shoes on.

"Mom, what is going on?" I asked.

She said, crying and frantic, "Your father just took all of my pain medication and took off running. He's going to kill himself!"

Three days later, my father came back home. After running off, he

found himself at a house that was in the process of being built. We later found out that he forced himself to throw up the pills. After a month of reasoning, my parents decided to work their marriage out.

My parents never spoke of the matter again. My mom changed, my dad changed, but I changed too. My mental image of this perfect couple from the movies no longer existed.

If you love someone, why would you put them through so much heartache? If you care about someone, shouldn't you protect them from harm?

Someone so young should not have to ask themselves these questions. A 12-year-old girl once believed in love, and six years later, she knows it doesn't exist.

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Historic finish upsets Tarheels history



Monday night's NCAA Men Basketball National Championship game turned out to be one of the best I've seen in many years.

The tournament overall was one to behold. Except for when my favorite team, the Kentucky Wildcats, took an unexpected loss to Indiana University, I can say I enjoyed watching this year's March Madness.

This year's tournament was the first one I actually filled out a bracket for, which ended up terrible after the first couple days. I had a lot of faith in my bracket, but I know that I wasn't alone.

As a fan of sports, I believe I speak for everyone when I say that paying attention throughout the whole college basketball season instead of just watching the tournament makes it a lot more breathtaking once the championship game is over.

I like to believe that I, as a fan, grow with the teams and players that I want to see succeed. I really was never a fan of Carolina basketball, but I couldn't overlook the outstanding show that the North Carolina men's basketball team put on throughout the season.

That simple fact made them my outright favorites to win it after teams like Duke, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Michigan St. were eliminated out of contention.

And then there were two.

If someone would've told me that North Carolina would face Villanova in the national championship game,

I probably would look at them like he or she had gone insane. To me, Villanova always seems to put together a good recruiting class and a good season but never makes it all the way to the top of the college basketball throne.

Monday night proved to show the world how great the game of basketball can be.

As the first half ended, I assumed that this would be a close one towards the end of the game, and it indeed was.

I was on the edge of my seat during the closing minutes of the game as both teams traded big time buckets in an attempt to separate themselves and put a dent in scoreboard, but no buckets throughout the entire game were as big as the last two.

With ten seconds left with Carolina down three, I was hoping and praying that Coach Roy Williams would put the fate of North Carolina's season in the

hands of its best player Marcus Paige, and in fact, he came in clutch.

As I think about it, that is an understatement. He caught the ball, took one dribble and went for a double-clutch-contested three point jump shot from thirty feet away, which had many seeking overtime with the game tied at seventy four. Villanova inbounded the ball and ran the length of the court with four second left.

Kris Jenkins ended up with the ball and from well behind the three point line, he sinks the deep ball at the buzzer to seal the win and give Villanova its first title in 31 years.

As I said before, Monday night was another reason why basketball is an amazing sport to play and watch. No matter what, we can always expect big and shocking things to happen in the tournament, and I will continue to forever be a fan of college basketball.

WULFF CONTINUED FROM A14

"I've been struggling to find my swing," Wulff said. "I've been working with the coaches a lot, trying to figure out what's exactly gone wrong. I'm still working on it, but I think we're making improvements."

As a result of the rough start, Wulff has been passed up in the lineup by sophomore outfielder Aaron Barratt. Despite it all, Wulff remains positive.

"Barratt has played really well this year and he got a chance and succeeded with it," Wulff said. "He's kind of been struggling a little bit lately, so it might be my chance. As long as we are winning, I really don't care."

With his team-first mentality, Wulff has earned the respect of his teammates, specifically senior infielder Nick Gotta.

"I think the first thing

about Austin is he's a great teammate to everybody on the team," Gotta said. "He's been here for a long time, so a lot of the younger guys look up to him as a leader. He was one of the first people I met when I came to Northwest. He's just a friendly person and he's always there for you and always there to support the team."

While Wulff is not lighting up the stat sheet, his contributions as a teammate and a leader are a huge staple point in Northwest's unforeseen start. This past weekend, the Bearcats swept Pittsburg State in a three-game series. In the second game, Northwest trailed 5-1 and Wulff helped lead Northwest to come back and win 6-5.

"I think it's definitely important for the team (to have a person like Wulff around), but I also think it's important to him," Gotta said. "I think that is why he was able to come up with the triple that sparked us to get a big inning and a big win this last weekend."

ROYALS CONTINUED FROM A14

The Royals opened the season at home against the National League Champion New York Mets as a continuation of the 2015 World Series. The series was planned back in August, long before the World Series was finalized. Virtually everything around the first series of the season was surrounded by the Royals championship.

Before each of the first two games, there was a reminder of the championship. The Mets had to sit through the dedication of the championship flag before game one, and the championship ring ceremony before game two. The Mets had some recognition through a tribute video of their playoff run as a sign of respect for the organization.

The Royals began the season in a way which eventually led to their game five win with hitting pitches by Matt Harvey. This time, it happened in the first inning by taking advantage of a missed catch from Mets left fielder Yoenis Cespedes just five months after he allowed a World Series opening inside-the-parker. Center Fielder Lorenzo Cain followed with a walk. First baseman Eric Hosmer drove in third baseman Mike Moustakas, scoring the first

run of the game.

The Royals took advantage of Harvey again in the fourth as Cain led off with a single. Hosmer then had a single which led Cain to third, right before designated hitter Kendrys Morales scored Cain on a sacrifice fly. The Royals chased Harvey away from the game in the sixth as left fielder Alex Gordon and Cain scored the final two offensive runs by the Royals.

The offense power was backed up by Volquez who pitched six scoreless innings, leaving the game to the successful bullpen. For the most part, the bullpen was fine except for Soria. He allowed three runs on three hits in his reunion with the Royals. Luke Hochevar bailed out Soria before Wade Davis secured the win in the ninth.

The Royals started game two in a fashion against Noah Syndergaard. Shortstop Alcides Escobar opened the bottom of the first with a triple against Noah Syndergaard. However, Syndergaard was able to settle down, preventing a scoring run by the Royals. Chris Young gave up a hit to Cespedes in the fourth inning. Shortly after, Neil Walker hit a home run, giving the Mets a 2-0 lead. Danny Duffy took over for Young following the inning.

The Royals had their first big

opportunity in the sixth inning as Cain earned a single with Moustakas on base. Cain then stole to second while Hosmer was at bat. A few pitches later, Hosmer would be walked, leaving a chance of scoring to Morales. Syndergaard proved to be too much for Morales, striking him out to end the inning.

The Royals would never come to live at bat again after relief pitchers Jim Henderson, Addison Reed and Jeurys Familia shut them down throughout the seventh, eighth and ninth innings, giving the Mets a 2-0 win.

The 1-1 start to the season is not discouraging. In fact, one can not simply say how the team is going to perform all season based on the two games. The team will not be in its full routine until it plays consecutive days of baseball, something which was not done in this series. The second series does not start until April 8, three days after the last game. The amount of rest won't get the team running in full power immediately. It will take a few weeks.

There will be wins, and there will be losses. Support for the team should not disappear, no matter how ugly the Royals may get. In a matter of time, the Royals should be back in their norm, leading them to the playoffs for the third straight year.



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Bearcats begin spring with open competitions

ISAIAH SWANN
Assistant Sports Editor | @iswanny035

With a new year comes new expectations as spring football players begin to find their true identity.



Only a few days remain until the annual Green and White Spring Football game. This game presents a great opportunity for both the players and the coaches, giving them an idea of what a fall season game might be like.

“It’s a big deal to us,” Dorrel said. “We want guys to understand situational football. You want to see these guys execute in a game type setting.”

Over the last couple days of practice, the football team has really hit its stride.

Dorrel mentioned that his team had made a big steps this week in practice and the intensity it has shown is something that has impressed him a lot.

“It’s a process that goes with winning,” Dorrel said. “We have a saying that’s in the locker room that reads ‘Are you putting in the time or are you putting in the work.’ In our mind there’s a big difference between those two things.”

As with every college program, players leave and new, hungry upperclassmen must step up. Some positions that Dorrel highlighted were the wide receiver and linebacker cores, both showing lots of promise and potential.

“We’re trying to develop some depth,” Dorrel said. “We have a good group coming back, but there are certainly holes that need to be filled.”

Free safety Jacob Gassman was among the names mentioned, a freshman from Kearney, Missouri.

“I feel really good about our linebacker depth,” Dorrel said. “I’ve been really proud of our guys ability to compete and fly around.”

With the defense clicking, the most interesting question for this



The Bearcats prepare for their annual spring football game. The Green and White game is Sunday at 1 p.m. at the football stadium.

HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN

football team surfaces at an early stage of the spring process. Who will replace Brady Bolles?

With Bolles gone, there are big shoes to fill. While at Northwest, he played in 52 games, ran for 1,568 yards and threw for 7,728 yards for a combined 88 touchdowns. There will be pressure, make no mistake. The two quarterbacks in contention for the starting job are senior Kyle Zimmerman and junior Jonathan Baker.

“It’s a good battle right now,” Dorrel said. “I’ve been pleased with both Kyle and Jonathan. Their lead-

ership has been good and their intention to detail has been good as well.”

Baker understands the position he’s in and only wants the best out of his team.

“We understand we can’t get complacent,” Baker said. “We know it’s a new year and we are a new team.”

Some senior that are already showing some signs of leadership on the defensive side are safeties Kevin Berg and Jack Young and linebacker Jacob Vollstedt. On offense, the senior leaders are shaping out to be

offensive linemen Chase Sherman, quarterback Kyle Zimmerman and running back Phil Jackson II.

Another senior Dorrel mentioned was tight end TJ Shieber. He hasn’t had the most statistical impact, but has been plagued with injuries over the years, crippling his opportunities.

“He’s quietly having a really good spring,” Dorrel said. “He looks good and he looks really confident.”

Dorrel has been in this position before. A year following a national championship is a different an-

imal. The expectations for the upperclassman shouldn’t be to bring home a championship. It must be much more than that if the program is to continue to thrive as it has done throughout the years.

“It’s a challenge,” Dorrel said. “You want to remain focused and you want to remain hungry.”

“Don’t let national championship define your senior year. Leave a positive legacy by what you do in the classroom, in the community and on the field.”

Two conferences set to battle for track supremacy

TOBIAS TODD
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

With the MIAA vs. NSIC showdown this weekend, the Bearcats track and field team, along with other members of the MIAA Conference, seek conference supremacy.



The MIAA enters the showdown with three teams ranked in the top 25 men’s outdoor track and field rankings. The NSIC enters with one.

At the end of the women’s indoor track and field season, the NSIC had three teams finish ranked. The MIAA had four teams, includ-

ing the national champions from Lincoln University.

Likewise, the MIAA men’s indoor track and field seasons concluded with four teams in the national rankings compared to one from the NSIC.

Since the meet takes on a conference versus conference format, it provides a real sense of pride in both competing conferences.

“It didn’t take this meet to develop it,” coach Scott Lorek said. “When we go to national meets, our conference is probably the best represented in the country. There is a lot of pride in the conference because we know how difficult it is and we know how challenging it is.”

As for Northwest, this will be the second time so far this outdoor season that it will host an event here in Maryville.

This makes it extra special considering Northwest is usually allowed to only host one meet, if that.

“I think it’s great for our program and great for our university,” Lorek said. “It’s really great to be able to have things at home.”

This is a crucial part in the team’s season. Coming off of the indoor track and field season, the team finds itself a month away from competing in the MIAA Track and Field Championships.

“When you get into this time of the year, it’s all about performanc-

es,” Lorek said. “We are looking for our various individuals to get PR’s and hit big marks, and this is the time of year that we are peaking and looking for big performances.”

Three meets into this outdoor track and field season, the Bearcats have already had a handful of athletes meeting the provisional standards to qualify for the 2016 NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships.

With still five more meets left before the MIAA tournament, expect the team to push for improved times across the board.

“We’re off to a good start,” Lorek said. “We’re excited for where we are right now, but we

are really looking to improve in the next month.”

While this weekend gives the team a chance to compete as members of the MIAA Conference, it will also give the Bearcats more athletes and competition that they are not accustomed to facing.

The showdown is this weekend starting Thursday, April 7 with the decathlon and heptathlon. It will pick back up Friday April 8 with the decathlon and heptathlon before the field events begin that afternoon.

The competition will conclude Saturday, April 9, with the final heats in the track events and the conclusion of all field events.

ATHLETES of the WEEK



BEARCATS

SPOOFHOUNDS



Anthony Caenpeel

Kendle Schieber

Hunter Hayes

Jacqueline Ware



The junior struck out a career high 13 batters in a 6-1 victory over Nebraska-Kearney March 29. He was also named the MIAA/Astroturf Baseball Athlete of the Week.

The senior pitcher helped lead the Bearcats to a 5-1 record in conference action last week. She also recorded a 1.05 ERA through 20 innings and was named MIAA Pitcher of the week.

The senior led the Spoofhounds at the Paradise Pointe Golf Course against MEC contenders Smithville and Benton with a score of 39.

The senior central back is one of the key components to Maryville’s defense this season. The Spoofhounds have allowed just three goals in five games.

Senior tennis player domiates in second spot

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Chief Sports Reporter | @Joe_Andrews15

A few years ago, Maryville High School senior Tristan Lyle found himself on the baseball diamond looking for the perfect pitch to swing at. Two years later, he is swinging a tennis ball back at his opponent.

Lyle holds the No. 2 spot on the Spoofoound tennis team. He may have still been pitching today if it was not for his friend and former teammate Michael Farlough. Farlough helped curve his view through a friendly hitting session.

“He brought me to the tennis courts last year and started hitting balls with me,” Lyle said. “I just really fell in love with the game.”

The transition put Lyle’s 13.5 years of playing baseball in the past. However, the focus he developed has not completely disappeared.

“A lot of baseball translates into tennis,” Lyle said. “In baseball, it is your hand eye coordination of watching the baseball to hitting the bat. In tennis, you just have to watch your ball hit the racket all the way through.”

The mentality used in the swing of the bat in baseball is also similar to striking the ball in tennis. One simple mistake in the swing could eliminate the chance of earning a point in both games.

“If you get upset about one little thing, there is so much more game to play. One missed point could lose to 50 more if you don’t focus on every-

thing that happens.” The two similarities allow Lyle to establish success on the tennis court.

“Last year, I held the No. 3 spot on varsity,” Lyle said. “It was weird to adapt from baseball to tennis. This year it is still kind of a weird feeling like I’m not playing tennis.”

The difference between playing the two sports comes from the way teams interact when game time comes around, specifically within singles matches in tennis.

“It was weird to think there is a tennis team then,” Lyle said. “Really it is just yourself. I like it though. Whenever you play somebody, when you win, you know you beat them, and then overall the team wins.”

However, Tennis has helped Lyle improve his friendship with fellow senior Joe Suchan through the power of playing together in doubles games.

“Joe and I have been friends since seventh grade,” Lyle said. “We kind of know how to calm each other down or pump people up. The mentality helps keep the game together.”

Head coach Nicole McGinness says the two have developed a successful formula in doubles.

“They complement each other,” McGinness said. “Joe does well at the baseline, Tristan does good at the net. They can switch it up if they need to. They talk, too. A lot of doubles partners don’t do that.”

Through the formula, Lyle has seen how he can improve to play at



PATRICK EVENSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior Tristan Lyle currently holds the No. 2 spot on the team for the season.

a level similar to Lyle’s.

“Joe is more of a consistent player,” Lyle said. “I am not really consistent with my swing. I just kind of get bored and hit the ball really hard. This year I have kind of tried to go through shots to get the point over.”

McGinness says seeing room for improvement is why Lyle is such a good tennis athlete and teammate.

“He is a great leader for the team,” McGinness said. “He is always out here practicing. He always want to do well. When the kids see the determination he has, it helps them want to do better too.”

Lyle has high hopes for the rest of his final quest for a championship as a Spoofoound.

“We have a lot of young guys,

but throughout the season, we can go pretty far. Every team in the MEC lost a lot of people. Personally, Joe and I can go far in dables. The consistency is better.”

Lyle and the Spoofoounds take on Benton High School in Maryville Thursday, April 7. The match will take place at Northwest Missouri State’s highrise tennis courts.

Frenchman stable in No. 6 role

JACOB SUNDERMAN
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

It has been a rocky path for Northwest Missouri State tennis junior Aymeric Autones, but one thing still remains: the love of the game.

“I have been playing for 15 years now and I really like it. I have fun playing tennis,” Autones said

Originally from Sceaux, France, which is south of Paris, Autones first started playing tennis at the age of five. He went to high school at Passy Saint Honore and received a 1/6 French rating coming out. The 1/6 French rating equals the same as a level 6.0 player in the U.S, these level of players in the U.S. often have a high national ranking.

The transition from France to America was tough at first, but got better as time went on.

“It was really tough at first, especially with the language because my English was not very good,” Autones said. “It was tough to communicate with others, but when you are on a team, I think the integration is easier for international students.”

After high school, Autones played at Radford University before transferring to Northwest. Radford is a Divison 1 college in Virginia.

“It was tough that year. The level was higher and harder,” Autones said. “I was really nervous to start my first matches. I wanted to do well and I put a lot of pressure on my shoulders.”

During his freshman year, Autones went 6-10 in singles play, going 4-3 in conference, and went 2-1 in doubles.

Following the season, Autones was looking to transfer. The Northwest coaching staff looked into him and knew he would be a great addition to the Bearcat family.

“Coach Rosewell has a connec-



tion and knows the Radford coach,” graduate assistant Lluís Altimires said. “Aymeric was looking for another school and Radford is Division 1 and in general, D-1 has better programs, so coach Rosewell knew he would be a good recruit.”

The pressure of wanting to perform well and not meshing well the coach caused Autones to make the move to Maryville.

“I played against some good players and maybe I was not well prepared to play at this level, so I chose to transfer because I didn’t like the coach. I feel better here (at Northwest),” Autones said.

During his first year as a Bearcat, Autones saw good success. He went 13-14 in doubles play, 6-8 at No. 1 doubles and 5-5 at No. 2. This resulted in him earning a second team All-MIAA honor.

“I did not expect that (All-MIAA honors). I do not play for the recognition. I just play to try and win each match,” Autones said. “But it is always nice to receive an award.”

The coaching staff saw the change in his game and knows that it has helped his play last season and this season.

“Last year he played mainly doubles, and sometimes when you transfer from one school to another, it takes a little bit of time to adapt your game and adapt mentally as well,” Altimires said. “His confidence wasn’t the best at first, and the fact that he worked really hard both during the season and on his own during the summer is big. He came back and could tell he was a new player.”

This year Autones is off to an even better start and is improving each match. In singles play this year he has been playing the No. 6 spot and has compiled a record of 11-1.

“I am more focused on my game when I play. I don’t feel pressure anymore,” Autones said. “I have a

lot of experience now and I just want to enjoy playing tennis when I am on the court.”

Altimires acknowledged how great it is having a solid No. 6 player and the improvement that Autones has showed from the beginning of the season to now.

“He has improved huge. With the competitive team we have, going from not playing or being the No. 7 guy to being one of the keys of the team is huge,” Altimires said. “When we play, we play nine matches overall. It is just as important to win the No. 1 singles as the No. 6 singles. So having a No 6, as reliable and consistent as he is gives us that piece of mind that he is going to get the job done.”

During doubles play this year, Autones and his doubles partner junior Romain Boissinot are 10-4 and playing the No. 2 spot.

“The No. 2 spot is not easy to play. You play teams that are really strong,” Altimires said. “The fact that him and Romain are from the same country, they can feed off of each other very well. They get together and understand each other. They are best friends and complement each other very well. When they get onto the court, those things come into play too.”

Not only are Autones and Boissinot from the same country, they are also best friends and roommates.

“I play with my French friend. He is my best friend here,” Autones said. “We have good spirit when we play. The goal is really to have fun and I have fun playing doubles especially when it is with a friend.”

As the season continues and Autones keeps improving, so do the Bearcats as a whole. As Northwest tries to capture its seventh straight MIAA title, it can turn to the No. 6 man for support and motivation, especially the biggest motivation of all: the love of the game.



BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior Aymeric Autones returns a serve during practice Tuesday afternoon.

SPONSORED BY NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	MEN’S TENNIS	WOMEN’S TENNIS
	MIAA Standings	MIAA Standings	MIAA Standings	MIAA STANDINGS
	Overall MIAA	Overall MIAA	Overall MIAA	Overall MIAA
	Central Missouri.....19-8 17-3	Pittsburg St.....32-9 16-0	*NORTHWEST.....13-1 3-0	Northeastern St.....12-2 6-0
	Emporia State.....25-7 17-4	Missouri Western.....30-10 15-3	Southwest Baptist7-5 1-0	Southwest Baptist.....11-3 3-1
	Washburn.....19-12 14-7	*NORTHWEST.....29-9 13-5	Washburn.....11-4 2-1	*NORTHWEST.....7-8 3-1
	Missouri Western.....21-11 13-8	Central Oklahoma.....26-12 10-4	Emporia St.....13-4 1-2	Nebraska Kearney.....12-4 4-2
	Missouri Southern.....22-8 12-8	Northeastern St.....24-17 9-7	Nebraska Kearney.....11-2 0-2	Missouri Western.....6-2 2-2
	*NORTHWEST.....17-13 12-8	Central Missouri.....20-18 9-7	Lindenwood.....5-8 0-2	Washburn.....7-6 2-2
	Central Oklahoma.....19-12 11-9	Missouri Southern.....21-24 9-9		Lindenwood5-2 1-2
	Southwest Baptist.....15-15 10-10	Emporia St.....19-21 7-7		Central Oklahoma.....13-7 2-3
	Northeastern St.....16-15 10-11	Washburn.....17-17 7-9		Emporia St.....9-8 1-4
	Fort Hays St.....16-16 10-11	Southwest Baptist.....15-27 7-11		Fort Hays St.....7-8 1-4
	Nebraska Kearney12-17 9-11	Fort Hays St.....13-26 7-13		Lincoln.....0-5 0-5
	Lindenwood.....13-15 7-13	Nebraska Kearney.....14-24 5-15		
	Pittsburg St.....6-24 1-20	Lindenwood8-30 5-15		
	Lincoln.....1-29 0-20	Lincoln.....4-35 3-17		
	April 8-10 NORTHWEST at Missouri Southern	April 8 Pittsburg St at NORTHWEST(DH)	April 7 NORTHWEST at Ouachita Baptist	April 8 Central Oklahoma at NORTHWEST
	April 13 Missouri Western at NORTHWEST	April 9 Missouri Southern at NORTHWEST(DH)	April 9 NORTHWEST at Midwestern State	April 9 NORTHWEST at Northeastern St
		April 12 NORTHWEST at Missouri Western (DH)		

Holtman name etched into Maryville records

ISAIAH SWANN
Assistant Sports Editor | @iswanny035

One of three soccer sisters, Mollie Holtman is in her final year of Spoofhounds soccer where her backbone lies within her family on and off the field.



The Holtman name is rooted deep into the soccer program. The oldest sibling, Cassie Holtman, is wrapping up her sophomore year for Northwest Missouri State. The youngest sibling, Maddie Holtman, is in her sophomore season of Maryville soccer, while Mollie Holtman is in her final year of her Spoofhounds career with plenty to offer her younger sibling.

"I like having a younger sister on the team," Mollie Holtman said. "I can be that motivation for her like Cassie was for me."

The three sisters have grown around a supporting family. Mother Susie Holtman, father Randy Holtman and brother Chris Holtman have been there every step of the way.

"They have to be one of the most supportive parents in the realm of soccer," Mollie Holtman said. "At least one of them is there at every match."

Spoofhounds Coach Dale Reuter has coached all three Holtman sisters and knows each one's unique abilities.

Being around all three of them has been a treat for the Spoofhound coach as each one represents what Spoofhound soccer is all about.

"Each one has greatness to them," Reuter said. "They are well respected in the community and that's the kind of players you want to have."

The youngest of the bunch, Maddie Holtman, has netted seven goals along with seven assists through her first two years for the Spoofhounds.

"I've always looked up to them," Maddie Holtman said. "They've always been my role models. I can learn from anything they do."

The veteran sister, Cassie Holtman, had nine goals and 23 assists in her high school tenure. In college, she's started 30 games for the Bearcats as well as been listed on the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

"Cassie is one of my rocks," Mollie Holtman said. "I always love watching Cassie be so successful. She's out there kicking butt and I think she really got me motivated to play."

Mollie Holtman has had quite the resume over her four year run in Spoofhounds soccer, accumulating 91 goals and over 35 assists. A mark that very few Spoofhounds can vault about.

"We have followed in each other's footsteps in everything we've done," Cassie Holtman said.

Both Mom and Dad have enjoyed the ride and wouldn't trade it for anything. They have become soccer enthusiasts themselves due in part to the three generations worth of soccer they've witnessed.

"We have loved watching them play," Susie Holtman said. "These girls have put in the time and the effort. It's always been enjoyable for us."

Likewise their brother Chris Holtman played soccer in his younger days in summer leagues up until high school, where he decided that soccer wasn't his calling.

"I'm just glad that they all play a sport that I enjoyed, and they do well with it," Chris Holtman said. "I couldn't be prouder as a big brother."

Mollie Holtman has been named to the All-District and All-Conference honors list every year thus far.

During her freshman campaign, she was named to the Second Team All-State list. Her sophomore year she was listed as an Honorable Mention.

The trio credit much of their talent and success over the years to founder and coach of the Maryville Twisters Cleo Samudzi. These girls were one of the first few in the program and have enjoyed the experience with Samudzi every ever since the beginning.

"He has a real passion for the game," Randy Holtman said. "He's given years of his life to helping our girls and has never asked anything in return."

Mollie Holtman owes a lot of her skill to Samudzi for the player she is today. He understands the intricate work put into each and every player that comes through his program.

"He really built me as a player," Mollie Holtman said. "I think I get a



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior forward Mollie Holtman breaks through Springfield Catholic's defense Friday afternoon.

lot of my enjoyment from him."

During Mollie Holtman's time spent on the Twisters team, she was able to accumulate three championships. One of the three coming off an unforgettable penalty shootout.

"My favorite memory so far has been playing on the Twisters," Mollie Holtman said. "It was one of the most exhilarating experience of my life."

A memorable moment for Mollie Holtman's Spoofhound career was during her freshman year. The team made it to the quarterfinals in the state tournament and this was the farthest the team had advanced in school history.

"It's always a blast," Mollie

Holtman said. "It's always fun to just be around them. Winning with them as a team and as a family, that's always the best thing."

The Spoofhound defense has been a brick wall through the first five games of the season, allowing only three total goals. Two of those came off of corner kicks, a play where mass chaos erupts in the box and the defense can only do so much to contain it.

"I'm happy," Mollie Holtman said. "We haven't given up a great amount against those tougher schools."

These two losses have come to the hands of Class 2 powerhouse

Springfield Catholic, who made it to the state quarterfinals last season, and Grain Valley, a Class 4A school.

It's been quite a journey for this soccer family. Mom, Dad and brother enjoy from the stands while the girls put their blood, sweat and tears on the field match after match. With all girls active on their respective teams, it could be a while before the name Holtman disappears from local soccer news.

"It's been fun," Randy Holtman said. "We enjoy that. If we could continue watching soccer for another 30 years, we would probably do it. Maybe we will have grandkids playing soccer, who knows."



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Sophomore sensation carves name into school history books

TREY RANDLE
Chief Sports Reporter | @treyrocks36

In 14 years of playing softball, Northwest Missouri State sophomore infielder Rebecca Maher says the little things stick out the most.

Despite being listed on the MIAA academic honor roll and leading the team in hits and runs for the 2015 season, the relationships constructed with fellow teammates allow Maher to be passionate about a sport she loves.

“The relationships that I’ve built definitely serve as motivation,” Maher said. “Especially here because everyone has become a small family.”

The relationships Maher built with her teammates demonstrate the trust that the players have accumulated throughout the year. But that trust is not built overnight and requires hours of work.

“I just come in here and work as hard as I can,” Maher said. “I always have my girls behind me and helping me out. It’s good to know that when I get on, someone else will hit me in.”

Head coach Ryan Anderson also noticed the results of Maher’s work. He recognizes that although she is young, Maher has made significant strides since arriving on campus her freshman year.

“She’s a year older and that definitely helps with maturity on the field,” Anderson said. “She’s no longer guessing what pitchers are doing, she’s just going up there to hit.”

Anderson said earlier in the season that one of the key traits to this year’s team is its cohesiveness. Each girl shows a sense of unselfishness that allows the team to operate in an efficient way.

Maher has bought into the team’s identity through this season’s first 38 games.

“She’s positive all the time and she wants to compete,” Anderson said. “She’s one of those kids



who is talking and is in the game. She’s usually there picking everyone else up.”

But in order to emerge as a leader, a player must produce on the field as well.

No instance showed Maher’s ability to emerge as a leader during a critical time more than game two of the March 29 doubleheader against Missouri Western. During that contest, Maher connected on three doubles, which has only been accomplished three times in the history of the program.

“She looks like she feels comfortable with a lot of stuff this year,” Anderson said. “Last year a lot of it was a guessing game because she was a freshman and didn’t know what to expect coming out. She is still very young, so her improving is just a matter of maturity.”

If Maher’s actions are any indication, she recognizes her role on the team as the catalyst that so often shifts the momentum of a game.

“I just want to help keep the team focused and ready to go,” Maher said. “Personally, I want to keep them amped up and be that spark.”

So far this season, Maher has recorded 49 hits and 32 RBIs. She also leads the team with a batting average of 40 percent. Her play has been a major factor in the team’s 29-9 start that includes the third best conference win percentage of 72 percent.

“We had a goal coming in that we wanted to take over conference and go really far in the postseason,” Maher said. “That has been our goal the entire season and I want to do anything to help the team out as much as possible.”

With 10 games remaining for regular season play, Maher’s focus is on finishing the season strong. Maher’s emergence as a factor paired with a quality pitching rotation and other young hitters surely gives the Bearcats a chance during post-season play.



BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN
Sophomore infielder Rebecca Maher sprints towards home plate Friday afternoon against Central Oklahoma.

Junior outfielder embodies team-first mentality



HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Junior outfielder Austin Wulff is up to bat moments before hitting a triple against Pittsburg State Sunday afternoon.

JACOB BLAND
Sports Editor | @J_Bland93

In baseball, the importance of having quality role players is a prerequisite to building a strong team. Junior outfielder Austin Wulff is one of the many role players who have propelled Northwest to a solid start through the first half of the season.

“Austin is just a great kid,” head coach Darin Loe said. “He’s got a great personality. He has been great with the young guys coming into the program and teaching them the way we do things around here.”

Wulff has always been a quality player, but his ability to excel as a leader sets him apart. During Wulff’s first two years at Millard West High School, located in Omaha, Nebraska, he played on the junior varsity team. Wulff eventually cracked the starting lineup during his junior and senior seasons, but it was not easy.

“(Millard West) is a big school and they are really talented,” Wulff said. “The biggest thing (I needed to do was) getting my strength and speed up so I could play at the speed everyone else was playing at. (I needed) to fine-tune my swing, so it did not have as many holes in it. Once I did that, I really succeeded.”

As a junior, Wulff helped lead Millard West High School to the state finals where the team eventually lost 1-0. As a senior, Wulff again helped lead a competitive squad to the state tournament.

After Wulff wrapped up his high school career, he looked at a few other colleges but ultimately knew Northwest was the right



school for him.

“I wanted to have a college experience and I’m from Omaha, so I knew a lot of people who went here,” Wulff said. “I knew Northwest was a really good school and I really wanted to be a part of the community. I love it here, so it’s probably the best decision I’ve made in my life.”

In all college sports, an athlete usually takes a few years to learn the ropes and become a dependable contributor.

Wulff was an exception and bursted onto the scene during his freshman year. He led the team with seven home runs to go along with 32 RBIs and a .278 batting average. Loe is not surprised with how fast Wulff kicked off his career at Northwest.

“One of the biggest things you see in Austin is his power,” Loe said. “We saw the tools Austin had: his size, his strength and his capability as an outfielder. We saw the tools and what he was capable of.”

During his sophomore season, Wulff continued his dominance at the plate, hitting .290 and four home runs off of 42 hits. With Northwest failing to qualify for postseason play, Wulff turned out to be a bright spot for the team.

Unfortunately for Wulff, this season did not start the way he had envisioned. Coming off a year where he was fourth on the team in batting average, expectations were high. Instead of building off a successful sophomore campaign, Wulff’s numbers have plummeted. Through 30 games, Wulff’s batting average is .204 to go along with only 10 hits.

SEE **WULFF** | **A10**

Rejuvenated Royals begin trek to defend championship

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Chief Sports Reporter
@Joe_Andrews15

Five months after a milestone “Royal” accomplishment, a reminder of the 2015 World Series Championship hangs in left field of Kauffman Stadium.

At the same time, the Royals are putting the achievement aside with hopes of reaching a third straight trip to the championship series.

The organization returns with a roster almost identical to last season’s champion team. The only starting members who did not return include second baseman Ben Zobrist, pitcher Johnny Cueto and right fielder Alex Rios. Each spot has been filled with depth.

Omar Infante returns to second base from his injury which cut his season short last year. Ian Kennedy joins the Royals as a pitcher from the San Diego Padres. Reymond Fuentes signed after a year with organization AAA affiliate Omaha Storm Chasers. The Royals also signed relief pitcher Joakim Soria, just four years after the organization declined to re-sign him after he had Tommy John surgery.

Without much change to the roster, you can expect the Royals to perform near the level as last season. The team has the same chemistry which allowed it to rise throughout the 2013, 2014 and 2015 seasons. Some national predictions seem to be against the organization even after its championship.

The PECOTA forecast predicts the Royals will finish in last place of the American League Central

with just 73 wins. PECOTA cannot completely be trusted, however. In 2013, PECOTA projected the Royals to win 76 games. They won 86. In 2014, PECOTA projected the Royals to win 79 games. They won 89. PECOTA even underestimated the Royals in 2015, predicting the team to win just 72 games but they went on to win 95.

SEE **ROYALS** | **A10**